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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. Public assistance programs limit eligibility to  
3 those who have few or no assets. Unfortunately, such asset  
4 limits provide an incentive for individuals to divest themselves  
5 of assets and a disincentive to accumulate assets. This is  
6 problematic, as families need assets to avoid and escape poverty  
7 and become self-sufficient.

8 The Corporation for Enterprise Development is a national  
9 nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to expanding  
10 economic opportunity for low-income families and communities.  
11 The Corporation for Enterprise Development recommends that  
12 states, among other things, completely eliminate asset limits  
13 for their temporary assistance for needy families programs or  
14 raise the asset limit for those programs to \$15,000. As of  
15 today, one state has raised its asset limit to \$15,000, and five  
16 states have completely eliminated their asset limits.

17 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
18 human services to conduct a study to evaluate current asset



1 limits for public assistance programs, including the temporary  
2 assistance for needy families program, and assess the effects of  
3 changing the asset limits on those programs.

4 SECTION 2. The department of human services shall conduct  
5 a study on asset limits for public assistance programs, which  
6 shall include:

7 (1) An evaluation of current asset limits;

8 (2) Information on promising activities, policies, and  
9 trends; and

10 (3) The potential effects of changing the asset limits on  
11 the supplemental nutritional assistance program,  
12 temporary assistance for needy families program,  
13 temporary assistance for other needy families program,  
14 and Med-QUEST program.

15 The department shall report its findings and  
16 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
17 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18 the regular session of 2013.

19 PART II

20 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that the national and  
21 global economic crisis that began in the second half of 2008 has  
22 caused significant economic problems in numerous industries in



1 the State, including the airline, cruise ship, tourist, and  
2 construction industries. Mass layoffs have been reported by an  
3 increasing number of Hawaii businesses statewide, from the  
4 agricultural sector to the medical-services sector. Difficult  
5 economic times and declining tax revenues have resulted in  
6 budget cuts for many state services.

7 The current and impending situation jeopardizes the safety  
8 net of basic human services needs for Hawaii's residents and  
9 families. While all of Hawaii's residents will be affected by  
10 the situation, gap group families and families closest to the  
11 poverty line will suffer the most.

12 The purpose of this part is to appropriate moneys to  
13 maintain the levels of programs determined to be essential to  
14 public welfare.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
18 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
19 Statutes, to the Blueprint for Change for neighborhood place  
20 walk-in centers.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
22 human services for the purposes of this part.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
4 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
5 Statutes, to the Hawaii Primary Care Association for the Hawaii  
6 immigrant health initiative program provided at federally  
7 qualified health centers.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
9 human services for the purposes of this part.

10 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for youth  
13 service centers.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 human services for the purposes of this part.

16 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
19 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
20 Statutes, to Hale Mahaolu for personal care services.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
22 human services for the purposes of this part.



1 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the  
4 shelter plus care program.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
6 human services for the purposes of this part.

7 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
10 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
11 Statutes, to the Hawaii Primary Care Association for adult  
12 dental care provided at federally qualified health centers;  
13 provided that the funds shall not be used for any other purpose.  
14 The governor is authorized to utilize enhanced federal medical  
15 assistance percentages funds to offset the amount appropriated;  
16 provided that the total amount shall not exceed \$2,000,000. The  
17 department of human services shall report to the legislature on:

- 18 (1) The number of adults receiving these benefits;  
19 (2) The cost per person;  
20 (3) Total breakdown of administrative costs and other  
21 overhead costs; and



1 (4) Statistics, if available, on how this dental program  
2 is reducing the number of emergency dental-related  
3 medical procedures;

4 provided that the department of human services shall submit its  
5 report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
6 2013 regular session.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
8 human services for the purposes of this part.

9 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Maui  
12 community college, University of Hawaii, for the adult dental  
13 care program.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 human services for the purposes of this part.

16 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for  
19 outstationed eligibility worker services provided at federally  
20 qualified health centers.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
22 human services for the purposes of this part.

1 SECTION 12. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
4 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
5 Statutes, to the Hawaii Primary Care Association for outreach  
6 services provided at federally qualified health centers.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
8 human services for the purposes of this part.

9 SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
12 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
13 Statutes, to the Hawaii Primary Care Association for outreach  
14 services to locate uninsured children for services at federally  
15 qualified health centers.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 human services for the purposes of this part.

18 SECTION 14. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
21 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes, to Adult Friends for Youth for youth gang prevention  
2 and intervention services.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 human services for the purposes of this part.

5 SECTION 15. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for child  
8 care subsidies.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
10 human services for the purposes of this part.

11 SECTION 16. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
14 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
15 Statutes, to Hawaii Centers for Independent Living for statewide  
16 independent living services.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18 human services for the purposes of this part.

19 SECTION 17. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to the  
22 office of youth services for a youth gang response system.





1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 human services for the purposes of this part.

3           SECTION 18. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
6 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
7 Statutes, to the united peer learning integrated new knowledge  
8 program for statewide non-school hour programs.

9           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
10 youth services of the department of human services for the  
11 purposes of this part.

12           SECTION 19. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
15 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
16 Statutes, to the Partners in Development Foundation to:

17           (1) Provide comprehensive family training (early  
18 childhood, parent, adult education, and intensive  
19 child-caregiver activities) and transitional services  
20 to sheltered and unsheltered homeless families on the  
21 leeward coast of Oahu;



1 (2) Offer early screening, assessment, and referral  
2 services for homeless children from birth to age five;  
3 and

4 (3) Prepare homeless children for kindergarten by  
5 providing developmentally appropriate social,  
6 emotional, and cognitive activities in a child-  
7 caregiver interactive learning environment.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
9 human services for the purposes of this part.

10 SECTION 20. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
13 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
14 Statutes, to PATCH (People Attentive to Children) for the  
15 preschool open doors program.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 human services for the purposes of this part.

18 SECTION 21. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide  
21 funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes, to The Children's Alliance of Hawaii, Inc., to provide  
2 child sex assault services.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 human services for the purposes of this part.

5 PART III

6 SECTION 22. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DHS; Public Assistance; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires DHS to conduct a study on asset limits for public assistance programs. Requires a report to the legislature. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to maintain levels of programs essential to public welfare. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB2178 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

